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A NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE: HU16 ANCHORS PRODUCE PODCASTS

written by Audrey Jackson April 30, 2020



Features

Graphic by Darrian Bagley

Two anchors from Harding's student broadcast HU16 began producing independent podcasts in their homes during April following quarantine. With HU16 on hiatus, senior Maxwell Ross and junior Jackson Duncan put their television production skills to use, entertaining others isolated at home. Both podcasts premiered their first episodes April 14 and were posted across multiple media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, YouTube and Anchor.

Duncan, who has been an HU16 anchor since fall 2018, said working with television production prepared him for producing his podcast, "The Sports Tea with JD." Focused on sports in the Nashville area, Duncan remotely interviewed local sports professionals, a skill he fostered as an HU16 anchor. Duncan also became familiar with the equipment and editing required to produce a podcast through working regularly with a microphone and editing software for TV video packages.

"Hosting a podcast is different than being an HU16 anchor because it is not going out live to the public," Duncan said. "However, it's similar in the fact I'm recording interviews with these people, and I only get one shot at it."

Ross, who debuted as an HU16 anchor this year, produced and hosted “The Haywell Show” with co-host senior Hayley Baca. Ross and Baca created “The Haywell Show” to provide others in isolation with entertainment. Including games, book reviews and deep discussions, their podcast covers a wide variety of topics. Ross said the skills he gained working as an anchor taught him many of the technical aspects of production, and the podcast allowed Ross to continue storytelling after HU16 went on hiatus.

“From writing content to ensuring a smooth flow through the show to even some editing, I was able to watch and learn from many people in the HU16 team to prepare me to make my own [podcast],” Ross said. “I was an anchor so the stuff that I learned — like placement of media in the frame, simple cuts movements — came from simply watching.”

Dr. Ginger Blackstone, assistant professor of broadcast journalism and HU16 news director, said working on a live television production provides students with skills that translate well into several careers. Students in anchor roles often gain performance skills that translate well into presentations and future interviews, Blackstone said. They also learn composure under pressure.

“Our anchors also learn how to keep it together when things go wrong,” Blackstone said. “We cannot start over. Live television is live, and anchors are put on the spot if something goes wrong. We keep going regardless of what happens.”

CAMPUS UNDERGOES UPDATES AND RENOVATIONS

written by Mrichardson1 April 30, 2020



Graphic by Darrian Bagley

Construction updates are occurring all over campus while students and staff are away. Some changes have been delayed; however, most projects remain on schedule.

One project Harding's physical resources department is near completing is construction on the road between the Mabee Business Building and the Pryor-England Science Center. This road had multiple potholes and had been overlaid in the past. According to Danny DeRamus, director of physical resources, they had to mill the pavement and regrade the road bed. The road will lose two parking spots to improve field of view on Lott Tucker Drive.

As for buildings around campus, the Reynolds Center for Music and Communication is getting an upgrade. Within the last few weeks, the west side of the building received new paint and carpet. The wallpaper that once covered the halls is no more. Faculty and staff continuing to go into their offices witnessed the improvement process.

"I think that returning students and professors are going to be pleased to see the changes," Cassie Bennett, theater administrative assistant, said. "It's refreshing to have a slight change of scenery."

While some areas of campus gain improvements, DeRamus said the plans to redo Kendall Hall have been delayed until students return to campus. Assistant Vice President of Student Life Zach Neal said the plans discussed earlier this year are still in place for Kendall, however.

“It is my understanding that the plan is still to provide common areas for meeting and studying on the first floor, and the second and third floors could become home for academic departments,” Neal said.

As for construction in Cathcart Hall, the process has not been hindered.

“We have not missed a day so far,” DeRamus said. “We have had no delays in material or equipment.”

The project in Cathcart is nearing its halfway point, and, according to Neal, the blueprints are looking just right.

“The blueprints, color schemes and furniture choices look great,” Neal said. “I’m excited to see the finished product.”

DAGGETT FAMILY ENJOYS SHORT BUT SWEET REUNION IN PERU

written by Madisonscott April 30, 2020



Photo courtesy Jeremy Daggett

It was a family reunion unlike any other.

This semester marked Jeremy Daggett's second semester as program director for Harding University in Latin America (HULA), where he works and lives in Arequipa, Peru, with his wife, Katie, and their two children, Adileen and Kinney. Going into the semester, they were particularly excited because Jeremy's father, Shawn Daggett, Bible professor and director of Center for World Missions, was coming as the visiting faculty for the program, along with Jeremy's mom, Donna, and his two younger siblings.

"We love where we live and love what we do, but one of the toughest things is being away from family," Jeremy said. "So just on a very personal note, to have three months — we thought — with my family, to get to work with my dad, teach with my dad, was just really exciting to me."

Shawn said he and his wife had been learning Spanish in preparation for the semester and were excited, not only for time with family, but also to build relationships with his son's neighbors in Arequipa and take part in the evangelistic work.

Jeremy said that as soon as his family arrived in Peru, some of their neighbors had already invited the family over for lunch.

"It's just an example of how excited our neighbors were to see them, that even on that first day they wanted to make sure they had some time," Jeremy said.

Shawn said he enjoyed the uninterrupted quality time with both his grandchildren and son. He said some of his favorite moments with Jeremy were the little ones, like drinking their morning coffee together, going on walks and runs, and enjoying their family tradition of making homemade pizzas.

"Jeremy and I love to get up early in the morning and sit at the table and talk about scripture, and so I very much enjoyed that too," Shawn said.

Jeremy said having his parents there was not only exciting because of the time they would have together, but also because of how helpful his parents were to look after their grandchildren. When Harding decided to suspend the program for the remainder of the semester due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Jeremy said having his parents there eased much of the stress of trying to make travel arrangements for the students and directing the group when they were unexpectedly quarantined in El Castillo for two weeks.

"When the quarantine started, and Peru went on lockdown, they were just lifesavers," Katie said. "I mean, it was the dream of being quarantined with grandparents. If you're going to be quarantined, being quarantined with grandparents is amazing."

Shawn said the HULA group was still able to go on a couple trips, and although they did not visit several of the places they had originally planned on, what they were able to experience was beautiful.

“We got to see some incredible sights toward the end of our free time in Peru, but nothing matches how close we were able to grow under quarantine together,” said sophomore Elaine Helpenstill, who attended HULA this semester. “The idea of us leaving and not getting our full time together broke our hearts, so we really held each other close and grew so much during that last few weeks.”

Helpenstill said she loved witnessing and taking part in the Daggett family’s traditions and dynamics. She said she learned so much through their actions and the ways they demonstrated love on a daily basis.

“It was so sweet to be around their love,” Helpenstill said. “It was never too much, and they taught us all a little better what love looks like.”

After the program was suspended and the students left, Shawn and Donna Daggett had planned on staying in Peru until May 10, giving them a little more time to spend with their family. However, when the Peruvian government authorized flights out of the country only until April 21, they decided it would be better to leave sooner. They returned home April 16.

“The fact that we were hoping to have a semester — an entire HULA semester — with my parents made it having to be cancelled all the sadder,” Jeremy said. “But we’re thankful for the time we did have, and we got some extra time with the group without meaning to and extra time with my family. Each extra day was a gift, and we’re very thankful for that.”

HOBBY HIGHLIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHY

written by Chantelceaser April 30, 2020



Photo courtesy of Aric Anderson

This season of life has proved to be a time of picking up new hobbies and resuming old ones in an effort to remain connected with others. For some, photography is that hobby.

Harding students who practice photography have been using their time in quarantine to reflect on and hone their craft.

Senior Kyle Raney said he has always used photography as a creative outlet. He said he enjoys bringing his imagination to life through a lens.

"I have gotten to think of creative shoots with three of my friends and go out and make it a reality," Raney said. "We have had a lot of fun, and it's been a great way to keep us from being bored. While isolated from a lot of people, photography is a great way to still connect with people while also adhering to the social distance guidelines."

Senior Kayla Stites has used this time to take pictures of her family members and has even taught them how to take their own photos.

"I think fun and comfortable settings turn out to be amazing pictures," Stites said. "I actually taught my sister how to use my camera and had her take my engagement pictures, and I edited them."

While photography gives people a chance to connect with others, it can also provide an opportunity to be isolated with nature, making it a perfect hobby during quarantine. This aspect of photography is what senior Aric Andreson said he loves most about the art.

"I love shooting in nature," Anderson said. "I'm not really a people person, and the ability to just go out into nature and explore on my own is something that I have loved as a part of this hobby."

Director of photo services Jeff Montgomery has also used this time to slow down and capture the wonders of nature.

"It is amazing what you can find if you go out and just pay attention to what is around," Montgomery said. "I have really enjoyed using my macro lens to get really close to flowers and show the amazing beauty of the tiny details of individual blooms."

The abundance of time on everyone's hands gives them the chance to pick up a camera, whether that be a phone, digital camera or a Polaroid, and pursue the things they find beautiful.

"Be friends with your camera, have fun, try new things and be creative," Stites said. "Make the pictures your own style."

Raney said it can be easy to pick up photography, and anyone interested should just do it.

"Watch a YouTube video about how to work the manual settings on your camera and start shooting," Raney said.

"Take pictures of everything; grass, flowers and even your home can make beautiful photos if you try. I learned that one in Jeff Montgomery's class."

Montgomery said the art is meant to be fun, and aspiring photographers shouldn't be concerned about having the fanciest camera.

"Photography should be fun, and if you pursue things that you are passionate about, you will be doing your best work," Montgomery said. "Only photograph to please yourself, and don't worry about your gear. You can do great work with a really old camera, the newest camera or even your phone. Photography is not about the gear, but about the content of your heart and mind and what you want your photo to say."

HOBBY HIGHLIGHT: YOGA

written by Kaitlynfrancois April 30, 2020



Graphic by Darrian Bagley

Another week, another hobby highlight — yoga. What better time to try it than now? Yoga is a physical activity consisting of postures often connected by flowing sequences, focused breathing and meditation.

Sophomore Calla Welter practices yoga twice a day and said she finds that it helps set her intentions for each day.

“In the morning, I like to use it for getting my body ready for the day,” Welter said. “Allowing myself to stretch first thing in the morning helps me be prepared. At night, I focus more on breathing and slow movements to calm myself before laying down.”

Through practicing yoga, Welter has found that she is not only able to move her body in a way that she enjoys, but is able to show herself and her body love.

"My biggest impact is allowing me to work through the things I need to — being able to calm down at the end of the day and building a healthy relationship with myself," Welter said. "It just gives me a more positive outlook on life and all the things God has in store for me."

Freshman Kayla Cesone began practicing yoga to help nerve pain in her back due to scoliosis. She said practicing yoga, especially during quarantine, has offered her a mental break.

"It's been nice in quarantine to kind of refocus, take a breath and have some time to think clearly," Cesone said.

The idea of beginning yoga may seem overwhelming, but there are many resources available that have specific guidelines for beginners.

Senior Sally Roach has used multiple media tools to practice yoga. Roach recommended using the Down Dog app not only because it offers yoga classes, but because it is currently free during quarantine. She has also watched YouTube videos, such as Yoga With Adrienne.

"I do some of their routines and connect my phone to my TV," Roach said.

Welter recommends beginners be determined and aware of what feels right physically.

"Stay with it," Welter said. "Being consistent is super important. Start with watching a few videos on YouTube, and then go from there by doing what feels right for you."

Cesone reminded people that just like any new skill, it can be taxing in the beginning, but advantageous in the end.

"I'd say that at first, it will probably seem strange or counterintuitive, but after sticking with it for a little bit, the physical and mental benefits become evident, and that's really exciting," Cesone said.

HUT MOVES TO END OF SUMMER

written by Katelynallen April 30, 2020



Photo courtesy of Cole Custer

The Bible missions course that takes place on the Harding University Tahkodah training campground will be offered for two weeks in August this year instead of during May's Intersession. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the class has been moved to Aug. 10-21, two weeks before fall classes begin.

The course, commonly known as HUT, gives students the chance to be fully immersed in global village environments built to represent the living conditions of those in developing countries. HUT Director O'neal Tankersley decided not to move the course online because of the hands-on experience that makes the class effective and meaningful.

"One of the most amazing parts of the HUT course is that each year a large number of our former students eagerly volunteer to help us with the current class," Tankersley said. "They do this because the class has made such a big impact on their lives that they want to share in making that same impact on the lives of other students ... For me, personally, the HUT course is one of the high points of my year as I get to know and serve with so many wonderful students and other older volunteers who come to help."

The class can be taken for up to three hours of credit and can satisfy the global literacy requirement for students. Tankersley believes this class is one of the best educational experiences in Christian services that Harding has to offer. He said he enjoys watching students who volunteer and enroll in the course grow and challenge their faith.

Junior Maddy Hall took the class in 2019 and shared eye-opening experiences about the class. Hall decided to take the class for no class credit because she wanted to learn from a course like no other. She wanted to learn about foreign missions and knew the course would be a challenging and transformative experience. HUT trains students to see foreign missions as a sustainable ministry that respects cultures unlike their own.

“HUT taught me that Jesus is working in every place and in every person,” Hall said. “The friendships that HUT gave me have continued to challenge me in my walk with the Lord and to show me love in the way of God. I learned to embrace challenges with the help of Jesus, knowing for certain that he would walk me to the other side and make me better for it.”

Senior Ashley Webb participated in the course before studying abroad at Harding University in Zambia (HIZ) in 2017, as most students do before attending HIZ. Webb described HUT as an experience that teaches students different aspects of missions in all kinds of different cultures, such as teaching participants to be prepared for all scenarios that could happen in the mission field.

“HUT was probably the best experience I’ve had while at Harding,” Webb said. “I would highly recommend it to everyone, but especially to anyone who has an interest in missions.”

Tankersley encouraged students to continue signing up for the course and confirmed that spots are still available for anyone wishing to enroll. He said the team will be pleased to correspond with anyone who might be interested in the course and would love to answer any questions. For more information, reach out to Tankersley and his team at HUT@harding.edu.

STUDENTS ATHLETES STAY IN SHAPE FOR NEXT SEASON

written by Ryangallagher April 30, 2020



Graphic by Darrian Bagley

With the unexpected outbreak of COVID-19 and the closure of schools and sports, athletes have been left with a season unlike any other. Spring sports at Harding include track and field, golf, tennis, baseball, and softball. Most of these sports were about halfway through their seasons before the news broke over spring break.

The seasons may have been canceled, but the training continues for athletes. Coaches have been sending student athletes workout schedules each week during quarantine. For some track athletes, recording their times or even recording their sprints has been a requirement to send back to the coaches. Tennis athletes, on the other hand, have to do workouts and continue to go out and hit the tennis ball.

Due to COVID-19 shutting down Florida, sophomore middle distance runner Bri Hall said she has struggled to find ways to get her workouts done without a track or equipment.

"We usually do lifts and workout in the weight room after our running practice, and to not have that hinders your ability to be the best you can be," Hall said. "I can't go to the gym, and I don't have the equipment at home, so I've been trying to adapt and do body workouts without weights."

It has been difficult for many athletes to go from a gym that has all of the equipment they need to being at home and having to use their creativity to complete a workout. Hall said she uses whatever she can find in her house to replace equipment in the workout room and that she has changed her workout plan from heavier weights to higher repetition.

The next season is in sight for senior track athlete Matt Hipshire, who competes in multiple events including hurdles, pole vault, javelin and decathlons. He said he is training with the future in mind.

"We still have something to work towards in the fact that we all get another season, and even seniors get another season if they decide to take the opportunity," Hipshire said. "I just see it as a time to put extra work in."

Hipshire said he is sad that the team cannot work out together during this time but recognizes the importance of the workouts and the effort the coaches are putting in.

"There is some mixed feelings, because it sucks that we can't do it with the team and with the coaches there," Hipshire said. "I like that they are still trying to put in the effort and keep us in shape because there have been some tough workouts that they have been sending to ensure that we stay on top of things."

Training for tennis is a new adventure for freshman Ricardo Rodrigues, whose training was severely restricted in the beginning.

"In the first three weeks, I couldn't leave my house, so my training was inside my house and doing aerobic fitness, some simple exercises and stretching," Rodrigues said. "It has been two weeks now that I am able to go out and hit a little bit. I am hitting for about two hours per day and getting to go to a gym here in my apartment three times a week."

The tennis coaches are sending their athletes workout schedules just like the track and field coaches are doing. Despite this time period of being home without a team, there is still a season to look forward to next year, and now, like any other off-season, is a time to train and improve for better results next season.

STUDENT ATHLETES USE THEIR VOICES FOR GOOD

written by Darcysandford April 30, 2020



Photo courtesy of Madison Meyer

Junior basketball guards Tyler Roth and Romen Martin created a blog in August 2019 in hopes of using their voices as collegiate athletes as a platform for good. Their blog “Playing with Purpose” has grown over the past year as they have shared their own testimonies and invited other athletes as guest writers to impact others through their stories and lessons.

Roth and Martin said they came up with the idea together when they realized they did not want to miss out on any opportunities to serve their community during their time as athletes.

“I feel like many student athletes part of divisions other than Division 1 take this opportunity for granted, and they don’t realize the platform they have to influence and inspire so many others,” Martin said. “So, we prayed and searched for different ways to impact people.”

Roth said their motivation is not only to share their own testimonies, stories and lessons learned for the next generation of athletes, but to also share the encouraging stories of other athletes from around the country.

"We believe that God can do some wonderful things through all of our voices to inspire the next generation to do even bigger things than we ever imagined we could do ourselves," Roth said.

Each post is centered around the writer's journey as an athlete, complete with failures, successes, lessons learned, advice, stories and testimonies. Roth and Martin said there is no set schedule to the posts, but they do try to publish a post every week.

Freshman guard Davis Morgan wrote as a guest writer in March about his time as a freshman and what the year taught him.

"I am very thankful for the opportunity that T-Roth and Rome have given me to write just a little something on their blog," Davis said. "I have read most of their posts, and I can see so much wisdom in all of their posts."

Roth said he and Martin see the blogs as conversation starters. They want each post to create new ideas for others to meditate on and run with through conversations within their own inner circle.

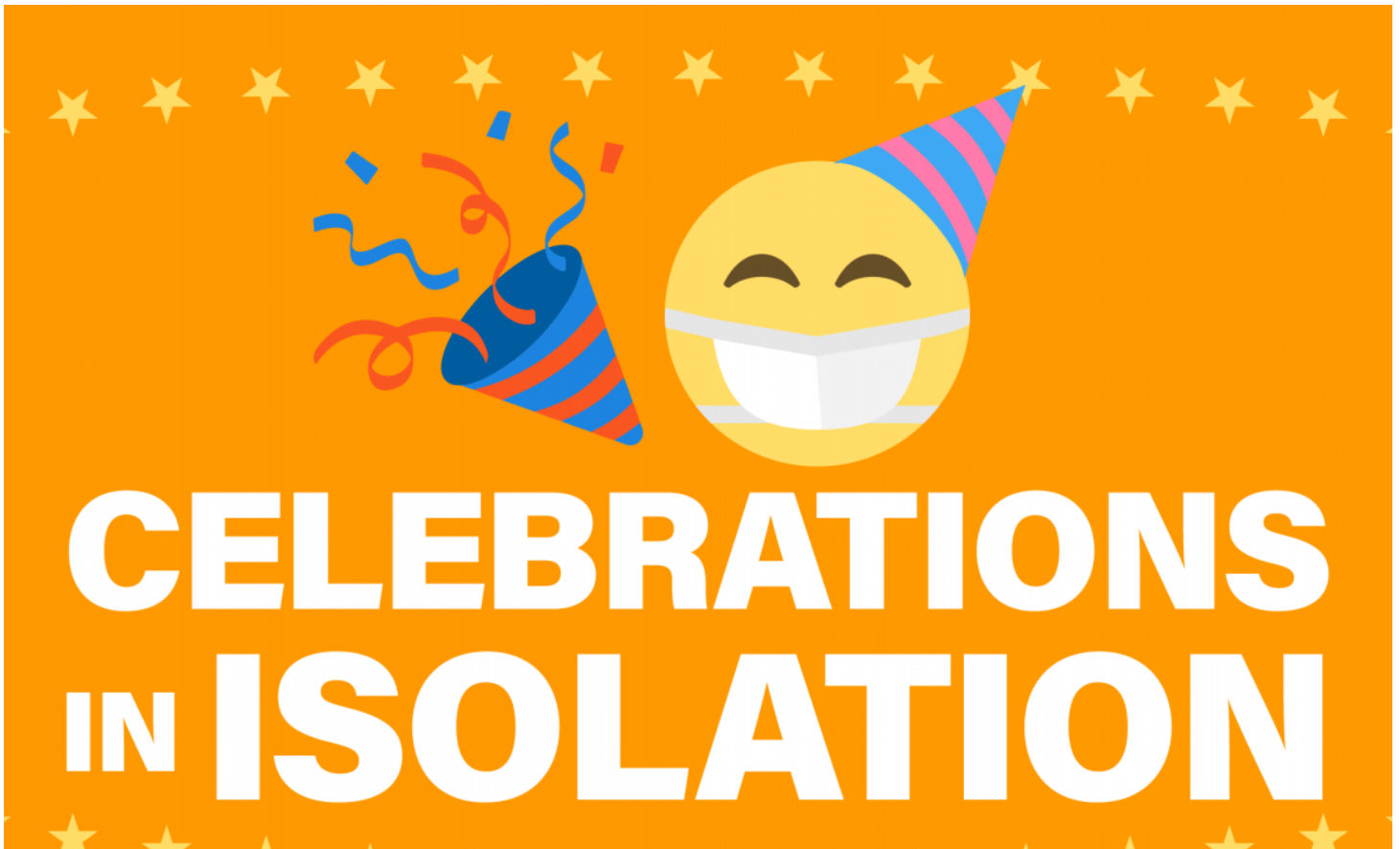
In the future, Roth and Martin hope to expand the blog to a video page where there will be interviews with athletes from all over, sharing their stories in a more personal and authentic way.

Martin said he hopes through the blog, athletes will start to use their voices more. He said when athletes tell their stories, it is the "most powerful thing we have."

"God has a purpose for each of us on this planet, athlete or not, so we hope that 'Playing with Purpose' inspires you to keep putting one foot in front of the other towards your God-given destiny," Roth said. "If you need anything at all — prayer, someone to talk to, community — hit Rome or I up; we'd love to get to know you and build a friendship."

STUDENTS GET CREATIVE TO CELEBRATE WHILE THEY ISOLATE

written by Selbybailey, April 30, 2020



Graphic by Darrian Bagley

Parties and group events may have been canceled for now to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but that hasn't stopped friends and family from celebrating. As strange as the last month has been, people across the country have found ways to make sure their loved ones still feel loved and that things worth celebrating don't get overlooked.

Despite not being at Harding with her friends, senior Macey Vaught celebrated her 21st birthday with her family after two years of celebrating the day at school.

When Vaught was growing up, she said her mom decorated her room while she was still sleeping on the morning of her birthday, then her family would wake her up in the morning with singing and eat cake for breakfast. It was a treat to get to experience it again after several years without, Vaught said.

"It's so fun, and it has been one of my favorite family traditions that we do for everybody's birthday," Vaught said. "I am very thankful to have grown up in a family that makes birthdays a big deal."

Vaught also said she got to FaceTime her suitemates later that evening.

"I love living with those girls so much," Vaught said. "It was very special that we all got to FaceTime and celebrate even though we aren't together."

This birthday ended up being one of Vaught's most memorable and among her top three favorites, she said.

The celebrations don't stop with birthdays. Juniors Laurel Beshirs and Lindlee Moon celebrated the upcoming marriage of their friend, senior Abbey Lusk.

Beshirs and Moon started planning a wedding shower for their friend in February, but when life took an unexpected turn, they had to make a new plan.

Beshirs said she was disappointed about their original plan getting flopped, but she and Moon developed a new plan to host a virtual wedding shower through Zoom. Beshirs sent out a group message to friends and told them to send a wedding gift to her house, which she then delivered to Lusk's home as a surprise.

"It kind of felt like we were all there, even though we weren't," Beshirs said. "I feel very blessed to have the technology to be able to do this."

The shower was put together so smoothly that Beshirs said she knew God was working through it all.

"I could see the Lord working through everyone's willingness to do it, and everyone was so excited," Beshirs said. "You could see the love that we all have for each other."

Senior Caroline Nesbitt found ways to celebrate her sister-in-law's 16th birthday, even though she couldn't throw the big party that many would expect to come with a momentous birthday.

Nesbitt said her older sister-in-law covered their refrigerator in pictures of the birthday girl to start out the day, and the whole family was able to gather for a birthday lunch of potato soup, Dora Express for dinner and strawberry cheesecake for dessert. Luckily, the Department of Motor Vehicles was still open, so she was able to do what every 16-year-old wants to do — get her driver's license.

"It was low-key, but honestly probably not super far off from what we would have done anyway," Nesbitt said. "It's been really neat to spend one-on-one time with [my husband's] family."

THE SPEECH THAT NEVER HAPPENED

written by Emily Nicks April 30, 2020



Every semester when chapel nears its conclusion, the student body listens to several speeches from graduating seniors. Without fail, I've always pondered what I would say if I got the chance to reflect on my time at Harding from the Benson stage. Would I talk about the big picture? Would I focus on specific memories? It was fun to consider.

Over the past year, I became more seriously intrigued by the idea. I desired just a few minutes to address the Harding community in person as I wrapped up four formative, powerful years. I sincerely hoped I would be honored with the opportunity.

As we all know now, I did not get the chance to give a senior speech this year — no one did. Still, I wondered what I would have said if I had gotten to stand in front of you all, wrapping up four years in five minutes.

I think it would have gone something like this:

There's something special about a place that becomes home in just a handful of semesters to a ragtag group of students from around the world. I've felt it over these last four years, and I certainly feel it now as I say goodbye.

What was it? What was it that made some small school in Arkansas so special to me?

It might have been the big things. There were a lot of experiences that definitely would be classified as highlights in my Harding career. Maybe it was my time in the Thundering Herd Marching Band, which gave me my first place to belong on this campus. Maybe it was the semester I spent studying in England, which taught me confidence and independence. Maybe it was the two social clubs I was part of that provided hours upon hours of fun, or Student Publications that gave me a voice and a safe place.

Perhaps that special ingredient is the smaller moments — the little things sprinkled through every day. Was Harding so special because of the late night chats in Cathcart Hall? Was it the walks across the front lawn or long afternoons on the white swings? Maybe I feel so attached to this school because of the quick lunches in the caf that turned into hours or the study groups that involved a lot more laughing than studying.

But the special thing that made these last four years so powerful isn't a thing at all. Harding is special because of you — because of us. When you take away the people, we see that it's just a campus, albeit a beautiful one. We've seen that with shocking clarity over the past eight weeks, scattered across the world and missing one another. Campus is great, but it's not special without the people who belong there.

The big experiences and the small moments that comprised my time at Harding were wonderful, but only because of the people who were there with me through it. Studying abroad was great, but without the people, I would have just been a very lonely girl in a foreign country. I'll happily relax on the Harding swings any time, but they are best enjoyed with a friend and a good conversation. The people at Harding are the ones who saw me through the good days and the gloomy ones, the triumphs and the heartbreaks. It would have been an empty four years without you all being there with me.

I wish we could live here together for another four years, but there is work to be done. There are other people who need a community and a friend, just as you all have been to me. There are people who need to hear good news and people who need a shoulder to lean on all around the world, so we can't all stay here. Saying goodbye is bittersweet, but I've seen over the past eight weeks that special people and special relationships stay special, even from miles away. If that's not remarkable, I don't know what is.

Thank you for being the people who make places special.

You are dismissed.

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN PROVIDES AN UNDERRATED ADVENTURE

written by Kaitlynfrancois April 30, 2020



Opinion

Graphic by Darrian Bagley

As I sit on my porch, looking at the world around me, I cannot help but think of how wonderful the state of Michigan truly is. Michigan has both city and country life; Michigan provides opportunities of adventure and experiences every season. Many aspects of Michigan set it apart from other states surrounding it: the iconic “mitten” shape, the contact with the Great Lakes and the availability of adventure. I believe Michigan, with all of its unique qualities and contrasting lifestyles, is a breath of fresh air that everyone needs to experience.

Cultural food, dancing, extravagant dinners, unique art, auto shows — anything you can think of, Michigan's cities have it. A person can travel from a typical city scene to a small town with beautiful lake views and scenic countryside in less than an hour.

Detroit, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids are just a few of the cities that provide the state of Michigan with great urban life. These cities draw people in from near and far: day trips, permanent jobs, a check off the bucket list or all of the above. There are things like the Ann Arbor art fair, Grand Rapids Fredrick Meijer gardens and Detroit's famous auto

show. The cities give visitors a taste of what it is like to be a Michigander.

Michigan also has many places that are little hidden escapes. In the north, there is a special island known as Mackinac Island. There, no motor vehicles are allowed — only bikes and horses. Fudge is a delicacy, and the clear water must be kayaked. Traverse City is known for its exciting cherry festival and regional cuisine. The quaint town offers an escape from the mundane world with yummy foods and a lake view. Upper Peninsula (UP), the separate piece of land connected by the Mackinac Bridge, offers another unique aspect of Michigan. In the UP, one can find the city of Marquette, a port on Lake Superior and home to some of the best visual sceneries and Northern Michigan University. These places are an oasis full of evergreen trees, glistening water and cultures that no state can seem to replicate.

For those who love the outdoors and adventures, Michigan is the place to be. In the UP, there are beautiful ice caves, thundering waterfalls, colorfully layered rocks on the crystal clear water known as Pictured Rocks, and an unlimited number of places to hike, play in the snow and experience what it means to “sauna and swim.” Downstate, rare lighthouses cover the west coast, giving people the perfect place to hammock and relax on the beach. The Sleeping Bear Dunes allow you to escape to silky sand mountains that make you feel like it is all a dream. Head east to Port Austin and find a rock shaped like a turnip.

Lakes not only cover the land but surround the entire state. The only time that locals are not on a boat is when the lakes are frozen — at which point they begin ice fishing. In the summer when it is above 85 degrees and you have been on the boat all day, the only way to end the night is with a bonfire and a satisfying s'more. Lake life is not just a weekend trip here in Michigan but a lifestyle.

While Michigan may appear to be just a cold state in the North, it is a land full of adventure and peace that many people have not yet discovered. Through its varying and unique aspects, there is a little piece of Michigan for everyone to love. Michigan is an underrated state and deserves to be discovered.

THIS IS THE TIME TO SUCCEED

written by Audrey Jackson April 30, 2020



Opinion

Graphic by Darrian Bagley

In our culture, time is money, but now quarantine has stopped the world from spinning. With no obligations or classes to attend, it is tempting to spend this time relaxing; however, one question my professors posed this semester was how I would respond to future employers asking, “How did you spend your time during quarantine?”

My desired response to this question set the tone of my time in quarantine. Now is the time for entrepreneurship, unfinished projects and productive endeavors. In the book “How To Land Your Dream Internship,” author Tam Pham stressed that future success hinges on the experience you accumulate prior to graduation. From seniors to freshmen, we have all been given a rare gift: time. Time is one of the most valuable commodities, as college students well know, but time on its own is not worth anything. It is how we apply time that defines its importance.

I have been tempted, as others have, to relax after the end of classes. With so many students required to stay home, it could easily be viewed as a stay-in vacation, and so many will treat it as such. Using this time productively will make you an outlier — a unique example standing out against the thousands of resumes applying to the same position post-graduation.

Many of the internships I was applying to this semester were canceled. This is not a dead end, but merely a redirection. Abandon the conventional methods; this is not a conventional time. Reach out to employers you are interested in working for and ask if there is any work you can do remotely. If you cannot find paid work, volunteer your time in your field of professional interest. Help is often mutual; businesses use your time, and you get professional experience.

Freelancing is another option, and it pairs well with remote work in many fields. As a journalism major with an emphasis in photography, I can independently write pieces for local publications and provide visual coverage of my surrounding area (while following health guidelines, of course). Whether published or not, the networking gained from working independently is invaluable; instead of being introduced to potential employers as a college graduate, be known as a former student with ambition.

If you do not have a digital portfolio, now is the time to make one. Using Wix, Squarespace or various alternatives, create a website compiled of projects and credentials for future business applications. I would encourage anyone who has been dissuaded from projects by the pace of life to pick them up now and finish them. Use this standstill to bolster your resume and experience. Though many internships and jobs are canceled, look for gaps that need filling. Invest your empty time into the success of your future. As American entrepreneur Jim Rohn said, "Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time."

TO SENIORS, FROM A SENIOR

written by Guest April 30, 2020



Opinion

Graphic by Darrian Bagley

Written by Sarah Pearce

It's safe to say this was not in any of our plans. I'm a planner, but I haven't always been. At some point, maybe during sophomore year, I started thinking five steps ahead and haven't stopped since. Of course, it's been harder the past few months.

I think most of us, planners or not, had some idea of what our post-college life would look like. Maybe it wasn't set in stone, maybe it wasn't that specific, but we had an outline or a blueprint. Then, the world turned upside down.

I'm not here to tell you that everything is going to be fine. Things are decidedly not fine at the moment. What I am here to tell you is that you are not alone in what you are feeling. I'm here to tell you that it's okay to let yourself feel grief (yes, grief) over the loss of the last quarter of your senior year and the world you were preparing to enter. I'm

here to tell you that having empathy for yourself does not take away from the empathy you feel for other people. You're right, it's not the end of the world. It's not the worst that could happen. There are people who have it worse than we do. It still hurts, though.

I'm no more qualified to give advice in this situation than you are, but I'm just as much an expert in being a senior during the time of COVID-19 as anyone else. Here are a few things that have helped me:

1. Taking walks.

I live in the middle of nowhere, so I'm lucky that social distancing is no problem in my neighborhood. For those of you who live in urban areas, this might look like opening a window and streaming a trusty exercise video. The idea is to feel the fresh air on your face and in your lungs. More importantly, it's about remembering that the world is wide, and there is more to look forward to than our own claustrophobic moment. Also, I have to say it, exercise really does help.

2. Controlling the media I consume.

This has been a major learning curve for me. At the beginning of the social distancing period, I scrolled endlessly through month-by-month projections, infection counts and the same headlines from different sources. Then, I swung to the opposite end of the spectrum, watching only the happy Disney movies and a few sitcoms that felt safely mindless. That wasn't working either. What I've settled on since then is a good middle ground. I look at headlines once a day from a trusted news source, and I balance entertainment between stuff that challenges my mind (i.e. my classic novel/movie bucket list) and less challenging stuff.

3. Eating well.

By this I mean eating healthy, but I also mean finding ways to really enjoy this thing that can slip by in our daily routine. Cooking has given me a low-pressure creative outlet, one I can share with my family without losing my cool. Plus, if I'm making my own food, I'm more likely to be mindful of how it's helping or hurting my brain and body. All in all, good food, as usual, is something I'm grateful for.

4. Finding a routine that works for me, then adjusting it when it doesn't.

Routines provide structure and security, something we need now more than ever. But, for me at least, it wasn't sustainable to stick to a stiff routine every day. I think it's important to give ourselves the structure, but equally important to give ourselves permission to break it every now and then. Don't get stuck in a guilt cycle, just get back to work the next day.

5. Making life better for the people I can.

Sometimes I get such lofty, philanthropic ambitions in my head that I forget the simple stuff like being a good neighbor. COVID-19 has forced me to settle in and encourage the people right next door, in my contact list or my own living room. So, make that phone call. Send that letter. Clean those dishes. It matters.

Fellow seniors, and anyone else reading this, hang in there. Figure out what works for you, because there is another side to this thing, even if it isn't in sight yet. I want to sign off with one more suggestion for how you can use your time at home: Look for the things that don't change. What are the values you still hold, the people you still count on, the things you still believe about yourself and the world around you? Hold onto those things and consider letting go of the other stuff.

WHAT IS AN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS?

written by [Ryangallagher](#) April 30, 2020



Graphic by Darrian Bagley

This time we are experiencing is stranger than ever, and getting out of the house has never felt more exciting. Quarantine has locked us up in our houses, and we are restricted in what we can do. In my own experience, I have only left the house to go running — other than that, I have been locked up.

According to a report by The Wall Street Journal, updated April 29, almost every state had some form of restriction issued by their governors. One of the most notable restrictions that many states have is that restaurants can only do take out orders. That restriction is understandable, considering there is a nationwide urging to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer.

In most states, there is a restriction on which businesses can be opened based on whether they are deemed essential or not. In Washington, where I live, all nonessential businesses are “limited to minimum operations or remote work.” All recreational facilities like movie theaters, gyms and bowling alleys have been closed. Construction companies have been told by Governor Jay Inslee that previously started projects may be completed but must abide by physical distancing safety standards.

What has been deemed essential? According to a Business Insider article that references The Department of Homeland Security, essential businesses include, but are not limited to: supermarkets, banks, pharmacies, healthcare, gas stations, post offices and shipping businesses, food banks, transportation, educational businesses and any business that helps the businesses that have been mentioned. Most restaurants have also been considered essential, but, as mentioned above, they are strictly limited to take out only. Ultimately, the nation does not have restrictions on what is an essential business, but cities and states choose for themselves.

Further on in the same Business Insider article, the author mentioned what is debated as an essential business. Is a gun store essential? Are labor unions essential? Are home office supply stores essential?

The flat answer is no.

I believe that there are essential businesses and there are nonessential businesses. I also believe there is no gray area. There are businesses people can live without during this time period, like a gun store. Do you need to buy a gun at this moment? No, you do not need to ever buy a gun. It is more a matter of, "Do you want to buy a gun?" The nation would be able to live without gun stores if each state and city chose to. Construction is a harder topic to discuss. Do we need to have construction at this moment? No, we do not need it. On the other hand, it depends on how long we are in this pandemic. Households could grow too large during this time period, and if there are not enough places to live and no construction being done, where will people go? Hopefully, there will not be a time where we reach that circumstance and have to sacrifice the health of construction workers for the lives of others.

The discussion between whether a business is essential is in the hands of the states and cities in our nation. If the business is essential to our daily life during this pandemic like the grocery store or the bank, then it is safe to keep it open. For the businesses we can live without, keep them closed to keep more people healthy during this time period. It will be great to see the time everything has opened back up to normal, but for now it is best to stay away from the wants that are not essential.